

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

at least one terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~,

a housing ~~(40; 130)~~ with at least one cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ for accommodating the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~, and

a guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ at a corner of an inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ and extending substantially along an inserting direction ~~(ID)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~,

wherein:

a side surface ~~(14; 118)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ for engaging the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ and guiding the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ into the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented properly and for interfering with an opening edge ~~(62; 143)~~ of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ at a side diagonal to the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ to prevent insertion of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ into the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented improperly, and

a posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ is formed at a side surface ~~(15; 119)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ other than the side surface ~~(17)~~ intersecting a base end of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~, the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ bulging out toward the inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ at a position at or before the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ with respect to the inserting direction ~~(ID)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~, the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ contacting the inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented improperly thereby preventing the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ from falling into the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ and inclining.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein an escaping groove is formed in the inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ and extends substantially along the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ for accommodating the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented properly.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ is a substantially rectangular tube, the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ contacting an inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ at a side adjacent to the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented improperly with respect to the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~.

4. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein a front portion ~~(31; 122)~~ of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ along the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ is substantially normal to the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ and a rear portion of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ along the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ is rounded with respect to the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~.

5. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein one side ~~(16; 17)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a cut-away portion ~~(21)~~ for engaging a lock ~~(49; 137)~~ of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~, the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ extending rearward from the cut-away portion ~~(21)~~.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein one side ~~(16; 17)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a locking projection ~~(23)~~ for engaging a lock ~~(49; 137)~~ of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~, the height of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ being larger than the height of the locking projection ~~(23)~~.

7. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a main portion ~~(11; 112)~~, a bead ~~(37)~~ projecting out on leading end of a side wall ~~(14)~~ of the main portion ~~(11; 112)~~ and extending substantially forward and backward for reinforcing the main portion ~~(11; 112)~~.

8. (currently amended) A connector, comprising:

a housing ~~(40; 130)~~ with opposite front and rear ends and at least one cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ extending between the ends, the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ being of substantially rectangular cross-section and having first and second opposed substantially parallel surfaces and third and fourth opposed substantially parallel surfaces extending between the first and second surfaces, a guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ at a corner of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ defined by the first and third surfaces and extending from the rear end of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~ towards the front end, an escaping groove ~~(56; 139)~~ formed in the second surface of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ and extending from the rear end of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~ towards the front end; and

a terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ having opposite front and rear ends and a main body ~~(11; 112)~~ with a substantially rectangular cross-section configured for insertion into the rear end of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~, a stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ projecting from the main body ~~(11; 112)~~ and disposed for sliding insertion into the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is in a selected orientation relative to the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ and a posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ projecting from the main body ~~(11; 112)~~ and disposed for sliding insertion into the escaping groove ~~(56; 139)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is in the selected orientation relative to the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~.

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim 8, wherein a distance from the front end of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ to the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ is less than a distance from the front end of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ to the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~.

10. (currently amended) A terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ to be inserted into a cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ of a housing ~~(40; 130)~~, a guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ formed at a corner of an inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~, wherein:

a side surface ~~(14; 118)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ for guiding insertion of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ into the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ by engaging the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented properly, the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ interfering with an opening edge ~~(62; 143)~~ of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ at a side diagonal to the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ for preventing insertion of an improperly oriented terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ into the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~, and a posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ is formed at a side surface ~~(15; 119)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ other than the side surface ~~(17)~~ intersecting a base end of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~, the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ bulging out toward the inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ at a position at or before the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ with respect to the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~, the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ contacting the inner wall of the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~ when the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ is oriented improperly for insertion into the cavity ~~(42; 136)~~, thereby preventing the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ from falling into the guiding groove ~~(46; 138)~~ and inclining.

11. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 10, wherein a front portion ~~(31; 122)~~ of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ along the inserting direction

~~(1D)~~ is substantially normal to the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ and a rear portion of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ along the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~ is rounded with respect to the inserting direction ~~(1D)~~.

12. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 10, wherein one side ~~(16; 17)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a cut-away portion ~~(21)~~ for engaging a lock ~~(49; 137)~~ of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~, the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ extending rearward from the cut-away portion ~~(21)~~.

13. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 10, wherein one side ~~(16; 17)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ has a locking projection ~~(23)~~ for engaging a lock ~~(49; 137)~~ of the housing ~~(40; 130)~~, the height of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ being larger than the height of the locking projection ~~(23)~~.

14. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 10, wherein the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ comprises a main portion ~~(11; 112)~~, a bead ~~(37)~~ projecting out on leading end of a side wall ~~(14)~~ of the main portion ~~(11; 112)~~ and extending substantially forward and backward for reinforcing the main portion ~~(11; 112)~~.

15. (currently amended) A terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ having a front end and a substantially rectangular tubular main body ~~(11; 112)~~ substantially adjacent the front end, a stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ projecting out from the main body ~~(11; 112)~~ substantially at a corner defined by first and second intersecting surfaces ~~(14, 17)~~ of the main body ~~(11; 112)~~, and a posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~ projecting out from a third surface ~~(15; 119)~~ of the main body ~~(11; 112)~~ at a position before the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ with respect to the front end of the terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~.

16. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 15, wherein a front edge ~~(31; 122)~~ of the stabilizer ~~(30; 121)~~ is substantially normal to a line defined by the corner between the first and second surfaces.

17. (currently amended) The terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ of claim 16, further comprising a reinforcing bead ~~(37)~~ projecting out on the main portion ~~(11; 112)~~ at a position substantially opposite the posture holding portion ~~(35; 125)~~.